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Israel continues to violate ceasefires with deadly attacks on two fronts

• Kills one in Gaza and four in Nabatiyeh despite truce in both regions • Ceasefire violations by Israel claims 236 lives • Tel Aviv vows to 'systematically eliminate' resistance, carries out demolitions in Palestinian territory; threatens to 'intensify' attacks in southern Lebanon

JERUSALEM: Israel carried out fresh airstrikes and demolitions in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, killing at least one Palestinian and raising the death toll from Tel Aviv's truce-violating strikes in the besieged territory to at least 236, most of them civilians, the Palestinian health ministry said.

Hamas refuted claims that it attacked Tel Aviv's forces, which Israel used as justification for its bombing of Gaza, and presented a list of Israel's numerous violations since the ceasefire last month, while also stating the US isn't doing enough to make Israel adhere to the truce.

Al-Ahli Hospital said one man was killed in the airstrike near a vegetable market in the Shejaia suburb of Gaza City. His identity was not immediately known.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defiantly stated on Sunday that Israel will continue its attacks.

"There are still Hamas pockets in the areas under our control in Gaza, and we are systematically eliminating them," Mr Netanyahu said in broadcast remarks. He threatened to "keep up action against Hamas" and added that any Israeli action in Gaza is reported to Washington.

Meanwhile, *Middle East Eye* reported heavy gunfire east of Gaza City from Israeli forces, while troops simultaneously demolished residential buildings in the neighbourhoods of al-Zaytoun and al-Shujaiya. Thick plumes of smoke were seen rising from targeted areas.

In Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, Israeli artillery shelling and gunfire was reported, accompanied by demolitions of several residential structures. Israeli forces also reportedly carried out three air strikes on Rafah, in southern Gaza.

Israeli forces also detained at least 21 Palestinians during raids across the occupied West Bank on Sunday, including children, according to Wafa news agency.

The US remains deeply involved, with its Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, meeting Saturday with Israeli military chief Eyal Zamir. About 200 US troops have set up a base in southern Israel, officially to monitor the ceasefire.

President Donald Trump's 20-point plan to end the war shows little sign of progress amid major obstacles, including demands for the disarmament of Hamas and a timeline for Israeli withdrawal.

Attacks against Lebanon

Separately, an Israeli airstrike killed four people in Lebanon's Nabatiyeh district on Saturday. Tel Aviv warned on Sunday it would intensify its attacks against Hezbollah in the country's south, further unravelling the ceasefire.

Despite a last year's ceasefire agreement with the Lebanon, Israel maintains troops in five areas in southern Lebanon and has never stopped carrying out airstrikes, often claiming to target Hezbollah positions. The attacks have escalated in recent days.

In September 2024, an Israeli strike killed the group's longtime chief, Hassan Nasrallah, along with other senior leaders.

On Sunday, Israeli leaders issued new threats. "Hezbollah is playing with fire, and the president of Lebanon is dragging his feet," Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement. "Maximum enforcement will continue and even intensify."

Netanyahu claimed without evidence that Hezbollah was attempting to "rearm."

"We expect the Lebanese government to fulfil its commitment — to disarm Hezbollah — but it is clear we will exercise our right of self-defence under the terms of ceasefire," Netanyahu told his cabinet.—Agencies

Trump threatens military action in Nigeria to 'protect' Christians

• Nigeria hails US help, says its territorial integrity must be respected
• President Bola Tinubu hopes to meet his US counterpart, says adviser

WASHINGTON/LAGOS/ABUJA: US President Donald Trump on Saturday said he has asked the Department of Defence to prepare for possible "fast" military action in Nigeria if the West African nation fails to crack down on what he described as the killing of Christians by militants.

The US government will also immediately stop all aid and assistance to Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and top oil producer, Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

If the US sends in military forces, it would go in "guns-a-blazing" to completely wipe out the terrorists, who are committing these horrible atrocities, Trump wrote, without providing any evidence of specifics about the treatment of Christians in Nigeria.

Trump called Nigeria a "disgraced country" and warned its government must move quickly.

"If we attack, it will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our cherished Christians!" he wrote.

Although the US Department of Defence referred Reuters to the White House for comment on Trump's threat, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth released a social media post of his own.

"The Department of War [is] preparing for action," Hegseth wrote on X.

Trump's post on Nigeria came a day after his administration added Nigeria back to a "Countries of Particular Concern" list of nations that the US says have violated religious freedom. Other nations on the list include China, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia and Pakistan.

'Must respect sovereignty'

Nigeria said it would welcome US help in fighting the insurgents as long as its territorial integrity is respected.

Sunday
Trump Threatens War On Nigeria To 'Save Christians'
Sunday PUNCH
TRUMP TO NIGERIA:
STOP THE KILLINGS OR FACE MILITARY ACTION
Power struggle tears PDP apart
HEALTH INSURANCE
My brother abducted, killed by his 'friend' —Delta man
up in idle plants, says power minister

A VENDOR pulls a newspaper with an article reporting US President Donald Trump's message to Nigeria over the treatment of Christians, in Lagos.—Reuters

"We welcome US assistance as long as it recognises our territorial integrity," Daniel Bwala, an adviser to Nigerian President Bola Tinubu.

The Nigerian president is also hoping to meet with Trump, he added.

"I am sure by the time these two leaders [Tinubu and Trump] meet and sit, there would be better outcomes in our joint resolve to fight terrorism," he said.

Before Trump posted his attack threat, Nigerian President Tinubu, a Muslim from southern Nigeria who is married to a Christian pastor, on Saturday pushed back against accusations of religious intolerance and defended his country's efforts to protect religious freedom.

Nigeria, a country of more than 200 million people and around 200 ethnic groups, is divided between the largely Muslim north and mostly Christian south.—Agencies

China to ease chip export ban in new trade deal, White House says

AS PART of a trade deal struck between the US and China, Beijing will begin easing an export ban on automotive computer chips vital to production of cars across the world, the White House has said.

The White House confirmed details of the deal in a new fact sheet, after Xi Jinping and Donald Trump met in South Korea, according to a *BBC* report.

One of the issues addressed in the deal was the export of automotive computer chips. There had been concern that a lack of chips from Nexperia, which has production facilities in China, could create global supply chain issues.

Nexperia is a Chinese-owned company, but is based in the Netherlands. About 70 per cent of Nexperia chips made in Europe are sent to China to be completed and re-exported to other countries.

Speaking on Sunday following the release of the fact sheet, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told *CNN*: "We don't want to decouple from China… (But) they've shown themselves to be an unreliable partner."

The fact sheet states that China will "take appropriate measures to ensure the resumption of trade from Nexperia's facilities in China, allowing production of critical legacy chips to flow to the rest of the world".

It follows Beijing saying on Saturday that it was considering exempting some firms from the ban.

Last month, the likes of Volvo Cars and Volkswagen warned a chip shortage could lead to temporary shutdowns at their plants, and Jaguar Land Rover said the lack of chips posed a threat to their business.

The US and China had also reached agreements on US soybean exports, the supply of rare earth minerals, and the materials used in production of the drug fentanyl. The deal de-escalates a trade war between the world's two largest economies after Trump hit China with tariffs after he entered office this year, leading to rounds of retaliatory tariffs and global business uncertainty.

Much of what is in Saturday's fact sheet was announced by Trump and other officials following the meeting between the two leaders. Trump had described the talks, held in South Korea, as "amazing", while Beijing had said they had reached a consensus to resolve "major trade issues" — but did not immediately release details of the deal.—Monitoring Desk

Iran vows to rebuild nuclear sites 'stronger than before'

• President Pezeshkian says attacks will not set back country's nuclear progress • Oman urges Tehran and Washington to resume stalled nuclear talks

TEHRAN: Iran said on Sunday that it would rebuild nuclear sites damaged by Israeli and US strikes "stronger than before", as mediator Oman urged Tehran and Washington to revive stalled diplomacy.

US President Donald Trump has said the strikes obliterated Iran's nuclear programme, but the full extent of the actual damage remains unknown.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a visit to the country's nuclear organisation, said Tehran "will build (the destroyed sites) stronger than before".

"By destroying buildings... we will not be set back," he said in a video posted to his official website, adding that Iranian scientists still had the necessary nuclear know-how.

Pezeshkian did not elaborate. In similar remarks in February before the strikes, he said Tehran would rebuild its sites if they came under attack.

Israel launched an unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran in June, kicking off a 12-day war that saw it target nuclear and military facilities — as well as residential areas — and kill many top scientists.

Iran retaliated with ballistic missile barrages aimed at Israeli cities.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in July, after the United States announced a halt in fighting, that the damage in Iran was "serious and severe".

Pezeshkian's comments came as Oman, Iran's traditional intermediary, urged the two countries on Saturday to resume talks.

"We want to return to the negotiations between Iran [and] the United States," Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said at the IISS Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain.

Iranian government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said Sunday that Tehran "has received messages" on resuming diplomacy, without providing further details.

Oman hosted five rounds of US-Iran talks this year. Just three days before the sixth round, Israel launched its strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities.

Iran has since faced the return of UN sanctions after Britain, Germany and France triggered the "snapback" mechanism over Tehran's alleged non-compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal.—AFP

UK train stabbing leaves 11 injured; one held

King Charles, PM Starmer 'appalled' by attack as police rule out terrorism

HUNTINGDON: At least 11 people were taken to hospital after a knife attack on a passenger train in the UK, British police said on Sunday.

Counterterrorism police had helped with the initial investigation after the mass stabbing of passengers on the train in eastern England.

"At this stage, there is nothing to suggest that this is a terrorist incident," Superintendent John Loveless from British Transport Police told the media on Sunday.

While the police initially detained two men on suspicion of attempted murder, a 32-year-old male, a Black British national, and a 35-year-old British national of Caribbean descent, the latter was released after initial investigation found him innocent.

Loveless earlier said both suspects were born in the UK.

"We continue work to establish the full circumstances and motivation for this incident," he said. "It would not be appropriate to speculate on the cause."

Armed police board train

The arrests were made by armed police after the train made an emergency stop at Huntingdon around 130 kilometres north of London.

Local MP Ben Obese-Jecty said he had "never seen as big a response" to an emergency incident as he attended the scene.

Of the 11 people hospitalised, four have since been discharged and two patients remain in a life-threatening condition, police said.

Witness Olly Foster told the BBC that he was on the train which was heading towards London on Saturday evening when someone ran past him saying a man was stabbing "everyone, everything".

"I put my hand on this chair...and then I look at my hand, and it's covered in blood. And then I look at the chair, and there's blood all over the chair. And then I look ahead and there's blood on all the chairs," he said.

Another witness told Sky News that a suspect was seen waving a large knife before being tasered by police.

'Appalled and shocked'

Britain's King Charles III and his wife Queen Camilla said they were "truly appalled and shocked to hear of the dreadful knife attack" on the London-bound train.

"Our deepest sympathy and thoughts are with those affected, and their loved ones," the British monarch said. The king also thanked emergency services for their response.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called it an "appalling incident" which was "deeply concerning".

Knife crime in England and Wales has risen 87 per cent over the past decade, with 54,587 offences last year alone, a 2pc rise from 2023 and among the highest rates in Europe, according to figures from Britain's interior ministry.

In her statement, Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood said she was "deeply saddened", while urging people to avoid speculation about the incident. The government is keen to stop rumours spreading on social media following an incident in Southport in northwest England in 2024, when internet claims over the murder of three young girls sparked days of rioting across the country.

Britain's current threat level from terrorism is rated as "substantial" by security services, meaning an attack is considered "likely".

After a number of serious attacks in 2017, Britain has had some quieter years in the 2020s, although last month three people were killed when a synagogue was attacked in Manchester.—Agencies

Mamdani leads dramatic NY mayoral race going into voting day

President Trump brands the frontrunner 'a communist'

NEW YORK: New Yorkers will pick a new mayor on Tuesday after an unpredictable race that has drawn attention from far beyond the largest city in the United States, with President Donald Trump branding frontrunner Zohran Mamdani "a communist".

Breakout Democratic Party candidate Mamdani, a naturalised Muslim American who represents Queens in the state legislature, leads former governor and sex assault-accused Andrew Cuomo, running as an independent after losing his party's primary contest to Mamdani.

The Republican party candidate polling in third place is Curtis Sliwa, 71, who has a colorful past as founder of the Guardian Angels vigilante group, a prolific broadcaster and cat lover.

The latest Quinnipiac University poll conducted on October 23 to 27 gives Mamdani 43 percent of the vote, followed by Cuomo on 33 percent and Sliwa on 14 percent.

ZOHRAN Mamdani gestures with Reverend Al Sharpton at the National Action Network House of Justice on the final weekend before this year's mayoral election in New York City.—Reuters

The race has centered on cost of living, crime and how each candidate would handle Trump, who has threatened to withhold federal funds from the city.

"Mamdani is an unusual political figure and really captures the spirit of the moment. This is a moment where a loud anti-Trump voice in America's biggest city is going to get news," Lincoln Mitchell, a politics professor at Columbia University, said.

"Frankly, a Muslim candidate for mayor of New York is an enormous story." Mamdani, 34, has attacked his opponents for Islamophobic rhetoric and smears, calling out both Republicans and Democrats for "anti-Muslim sentiment that has grown so endemic in our city". NYC Board of Elections data showed 275,006 registered Democrats had cast ballots, as had 46,115 Republicans, along with 42,383 voters unaffiliated with any party in the first five days of early voting, which ends November 2.

Mamdani's ascent has highlighted the gulf between the left and centre-right of the Democratic Party.

New York's state governor Kathy Hochul, a centrist, appeared at a Mamdani rally on October 26 but was drowned out by "tax the rich" chants.

Hochul has been critical of Mamdani's proposals to impose a two-percent income tax on New Yorkers making more than $1 million.

Mamdani's rise

Mamdani's unlikely ascent has been fired by young New Yorkers canvassing for him, with his campaign claiming 90,000 people have volunteered.

"It really comes back to people speaking to other New Yorkers about the city that we all love," Mamdani told *The Daily Show*.

Teenager Abid Mahdi, a Queens native who leads canvasses for Mamdani, said that "when I think of Zohran, I think of what Bernie Sanders was to many Americans in 2016 and 2020. He is my Bernie Sanders in a lot of ways". Mamdani appeared with leftist standard-bearer Senator Bernie Sanders at a Queens rally on October 26.

"I'm 15 right now, I'll be an adult and paying taxes at 18, right? The majority of laws will apply to me in about three years. So, why should I start caring then?" added Mahdi.

Underscoring the importance of older voters who typically turn out in greater numbers than youngsters, Mamdani attended a "paint and pour" session at an elder care home in Brooklyn on Thursday.

Torrential rain at the end of the week slowed canvassing, with the three leading candidates touring TV studios in a final push to woo wavering voters.

Ahead of the vote, Sliwa appeared in a surreal conservative rap video wearing a suit and his signature red beret.

Cuomo, 67, sought Thursday to court Black and Muslim voters, campaigning in Harlem with current mayor Eric Adams, a corruption-accused Democrat who bowed out, eventually endorsing his former foe Cuomo.

There was a stir in the week when a British newspaper published what claimed to be an interview with former mayor and Mamdani backer Bill de Blasio in which he appeared to question the affordability of the Democratic socialist's spending plans.

But the article was removed after the former mayor denied speaking to the journalist.—AFP

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